National Congress Bulletin

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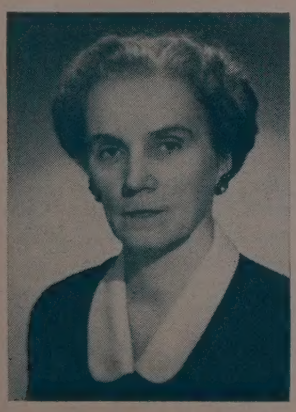
Memo to Local Presidents:

TODAY September seems very far away, but if we are to have fall harvests we must plant the seeds in spring. When September comes, a number of your faithful members will no doubt be missing. These missing persons will be the parents of children who have gone on to high school or junior high school (if your school system operates on the 6–3–3 plan). Will these parents be moving ahead with their children as the youngsters embark upon the exciting and frequently bewildering adventure of high school life? Or will they be dropout parents, letting their boys and girls go it alone from now on?

May is the time to encourage "graduating" parents to become members of the high school parent-teacher association. Now is the time to make them aware of the crucial need for strong, active high school units.

Record Enrollments

• Never before have our high schools and our young people needed so much the active, intelligent support that a high school parent-teacher association can provide. For the past ten years high school enrollments have been increasing gradually, and beginning with the year 1956–57 they will reflect the high birth rates of the 1940's.



Mrs. Rollin Brown

In 1955 high school enrollments reached the record figure of 8.5 million. By 1965 they are expected to exceed 12 million. Already some high schools are operating on double shifts. Are we going to be satisfied with four hours of schooling a day for our adolescents at a time when more rather than less education is indicated? This is a matter of anxious concern to parents, teachers, and school administrators.

Through the high school parent-teacher association critical shortages of high school classrooms and teachers can be brought forcefully to public attention. Through the high school P.T.A. the wisdom and energies of parents and educators can be pooled to meet the needs of youth during the coming years, while we stimulate public action to provide adequate secondary school facilities.

Problems Multiply

• Our hard-pressed high schools face not only overwhelming enrollments but also difficult curricular problems. Currently they are being attacked on the one hand for neglecting the especially able, talented, and gifted student and on the other hand for failing to adjust their programs to the less able. They are blamed for wasted talents, for school dropouts, and for delinquency. Our high schools need parent-teacher associations that can interpret to the public the unprecedented task of the high school—the task of providing education for *all* youth, not for a specially selected segment as they did thirty-five years ago. Our high schools need parent-teacher associations that can bring parents and other citizens together with educators to determine achievable objectives for our high schools and to develop a variety of programs tailored to the needs and capacities of all kinds of youth.

The World Tuned in for *Convention News*

• P.T.A. members who were unable to attend the national convention received news of it via radio, television, and local newspapers.

• Several newspapers sent representatives to cover the convention in person; the wire services filed stories; and a number of radio and TV programs saluted P.T.A.'s everywhere.

A World We Never Knew

• Our high school youth will live their adult lives in a world that may be more like the world of science fiction than the one we live in today. The applications of electronics and atomic research in the next twenty-five years will produce great changes in living. Men will work fewer hours, and they will live ten or fifteen years longer. Leisure, rather than labor, will be the great problem in the future. How can we give our youth the mental competence that new jobs created by technology will require? How can we help them learn to use constructively the unprecedented leisure that will be theirs?

Our schools will need to bring more and more talent to bear upon the complex problems of educating our young people. Through the high school P.T.A. they can draw on the knowledge, the experience, the creative intelligence of the whole community in planning imaginatively and soundly for the years ahead.

It will take the cooperative efforts of parents, teachers, and other citizens, as well as specially qualified counselors,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

to help our young people make wise and realistic choices and acquire the training and education they need for the occupations of their choice. Although this counseling of students and their parents should begin in the elementary school, it must be improved and extended during the students' high school experience.

One important reason for more intensive and extensive counseling, through all the twelve grades of public schooling, is that too many superior young people who are well qualified for higher education never get to college. Their abilities need to be recognized early by parents, teachers, counselors, supervisors, and administrators. Only by such recognition and encouragement of our able young people can we overcome the general shortage of trained manpower.

To quote from the report of the Committee for the White House Conference on Education: "Among the top 25 per cent who finish high school, fewer than one half graduate from college. . . . Here is a real lost battalion which, if rescued, could by itself solve the teacher shortage." Not all the members of this "lost battalion" are young people who cannot afford college. Many of them have never been encouraged to consider the idea. Perhaps their parents do not sense the advantages of a college education. Here again, therefore, we come back to the need for long-range counseling, not only of children but of their parents.

The Range of Activities

● High school parent-teacher associations have other important functions. I can mention only a few here, and very briefly. High school units are as concerned with teen-agers' out-of-school experiences as with their school life. They cooperate with other community organizations and agencies to provide youth with opportunities for recreation, employment, and participation in community projects and civic affairs.

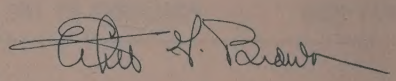
They sponsor parent-teacher-student forums and projects, in which young people and adults work on common problems and concerns. They also sponsor study-discussion groups in which parents, teachers, and other adults can increase their understanding of adolescent development.

What You Can Do

● The elementary school unit can do much to strengthen the high school unit. Now, in May, the high school service chairman or the executive committee of the elementary school unit might do the following:

- Send to the membership chairman of the high school unit the names of parents whose children will enter high school in the fall.
- Arrange a special meeting for these parents and invite the school principal and the president of the high school unit to tell the group about the high school and its parent-teacher association.
- If yours is a high school unit, probably your membership chairman is already in touch with elementary school units to secure lists of prospective members. Some high school units hold a special spring meeting at the high school for parents whose children will be entering in the fall.

May I urge those of you who are presidents of high school parent-teacher associations to do your utmost to reach the parents of boys and girls who will be entering your school in the fall. Work out a membership plan of action with your council leaders and with the high school service chairmen of the local units in your school community. And remember, your state chairman of high school service is always ready to help.



MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, *President*
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

FOUNDERS DAY ECHO

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Chicago (does) hereby pay tribute to the Founders of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney, and commend and encourage the many Americans, parents and teachers alike, who have followed the pattern they established to secure to all children the benefit of good education and wholesome, useful living."

Thus reads one of the several gratifying paragraphs of a resolution presented to the Chicago City Council by Alderman Alfred J. Cilella and adopted by the Council on February 24, 1956. Copies bearing the official gold seal of the City of Chicago were presented to the Chicago Region of Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers and to the National Congress.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Since there is still some confusion about the scientific reasons for adding fluoride to public water supplies, I call your attention to two articles on the subject in the *National Parent-Teacher*. Both present irrefutable evidence, based on long-range experiments in various parts of the country, on the value of this public health measure.

The first article, "How Effective Is Fluoridation?" was written by H. Trendley Dean, D.D.S., secretary of the Council on Dental Research of the American Dental Association, and appears in the May 1956 issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*.

The second article, "Fluoridation—Key to the Problem of Tooth Decay," by Edward R. Schlesinger, M.D., associate director of medical services of the New York State Department of Health, will be published in the June issue, which will be off the presses shortly. See the summaries of these articles in this *Bulletin*.

MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, *President*

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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THROUGH OUR Fieldglass

Field Staff: Ellen Dell Bieler • Dema Kennedy

Through Our Fieldglass is prepared from material gathered by members of the field staff "on location."

Seeing *Is* Believing

It was an all-day bus trip that convinced DeKalb County (near Atlanta, Georgia) citizens that they need seventeen more schools in addition to the six built in the last five years.

More than two thousand men and women, representing thirty schools in the county, recently boarded school buses and sallied forth on a Saturday sight-seeing trip to look over the county's crowded housing and school building situations, caused by a record population growth. Although the inspection idea was county-wide, individual P.T.A.'s sponsored and conducted the tours. After their trips, P.T.A. inspectors in local unit meetings reviewed the situations they'd seen. Their from-the-scene accounts put the necessary finishing touches on the picture of a county with an acute problem.

Round-Up of the Freshmen

To determine high school freshmen's fitness for sharing normally in their school's curriculum and athletic programs, and also to inform parents of any needed medical care, was the intent of the Siskiyou County P.T.A.'s (California) county-wide health check.

Voluntarily, 75 per cent of the ninth-grade students in the ten schools of the county went to their family doctors for physical exams. A number of unexpected medical verdicts established the full value of the P.T.A. project.

Majoring in College Cooperation

That colleges are more interested in the P.T.A. and that the P.T.A. is more skilled in extending its work with colleges is confirmed by a bolstering story from New Jersey.

Since the New Jersey Congress' first cooperative effort with Paterson State in a 1954 pilot course, its number of summer workshops in colleges has grown steadily. With plans for six such workshops in 1956, the congress sees golden opportunities for gearing up its specialized teamwork machinery.

• First person to register at the P.T.A. booth at the convention of the American Association of School Administrators in February was Haskell B. Osborn, superintendent of schools in Nappanee, Indiana, and a P.T.A. enthusiast. "Hostesses" at the exhibit were Ellen Dell Bieler (left) and Dema Kennedy, members of the field staff of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The gratifying success of the New Jersey P.T.A.-college project is due in no small way to an efficient action pattern, drawn up to show well-defined duties assigned to a lively team of officers, chairmen, and committees—for example:

• ***The chairman on cooperation with colleges*** contacts colleges, secures their cooperation, and fixes dates for classes.

• ***The congress president*** names workshop leaders.

• ***The field service chairman*** meets the leaders for briefings on workshop programs and procedures.

• ***Each workshop leader*** makes his own final arrangements with administrators of the college where he is to work, and relays details to the *New Jersey Parent-Teacher* and to the field service chairman, who in turn contacts the publicity chairman and regional directors.

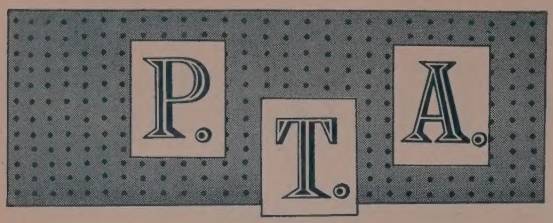
• ***The publicity chairman and regional directors*** send information to county council presidents for publication in their bulletins.

The Paterson workshop, which has served as a working model for classes that followed, reaped top-caliber advance publicity when its description was included in the school's summer catalogue. In addition the *New Jersey Educational Review* and *New Jersey Parent-Teacher* carried general notices, and daily newspapers kept citizens' attention focused on a newsworthy project.

Scheduled as a workshop, the course consisted of five two-hour sessions, each divided into periods for study and for discussion of selected topics, among them:

- *Philosophy and Objectives of the P.T.A. Movement*
- *The P.T.A. in the Local Community*
- *Planning and Evaluating the Program*
- *The Local Parent-Teacher Meeting*
- *Study-Discussion Groups*

(Continued on page 6)



BULLETIN BOARD

Brief Items of Current Interest

• **"WE LIKE OUR TEACHERS**—and we want to keep them," members of the Underhill Central P.T.A. (Cambridge, Vermont) decided. Their recommendation that the school's four teachers be given pay increases was acted upon favorably by the school board.

• **WHEN A MOBILE TB X-RAY UNIT** visited Pembroke, Kentucky, ten P.T.A. members served as volunteer workers. By the end of the day they had chalked up a total of 435 X rays.

• **IN APPRAISING ITS FIRST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES,** the P.T.A. of the Youth Center School for Retarded Children (Savannah, Georgia) points to several worthy achievements. As a project for the year, it established a library of current literature on the retarded child, for use by parents and teachers. In addition, it set up study-discussion groups to enlarge parents' understanding of the problems of the retarded child. The P.T.A. also took the initiative in organizing Scout troops among the girls and boys.

© *U.S. Army*

• A musical play, "Christmas Around the World," was presented by Fort Benning (Georgia) children at the post P.T.A.'s December meeting. Christmas customs of 13 nations were portrayed by 300 children, among them (from left): seated—Vicki Onstott and Gerrie Robbins; standing—Emily Harwell, Tom Wheeler, John Finn, Janice Crews, and Tommy Colkitt.

• **"STEPPING STONES"** was the descriptive title of a series of child development programs presented by seven districts of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers over television station KPIX. Each program included a film showing and a speech by an educator or prominent community worker. P.T.A. members participated in the telecasts by asking questions about the films and interviewing the speakers.

• A book week display was arranged for the Lincoln (Nebraska) Council of Parents and Teachers by Mrs. Rollin Mead and Mrs. W. A. Dakan, council co-chairmen of reading and library service, and the city librarian. Pictured with the display is Mrs. Fred Sehnert, state chairman of reading and library service. Mrs. Sehnert and her co-workers are largely responsible for development of the kind of library-P.T.A. co-operation that led to the choice of "The Library and the Community" as a convention theme by the state library association. Special emphasis was given to the role of the P.T.A. as a friend to the library.

• **TEACHER RECRUITMENT** was subject to analysis and action by the P.T.A. of Chester, South Dakota, a community of some three hundred persons. Proceeding on a sales theory that a prospect's thinking must be stimulated before his interest can be kindled, the recruitment committee began with a poll of high school students. Among results was the fact that Chester students generally consider the high cost of a college education as the greatest deterrent to a teaching career.

• **A CATALOGUE** of filmed educational TV programs, issued by the Audio-Visual Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, lists 16mm films available for nontelevision and nontheatrical use. The film service is a joint project of the Center and the Educational Television and Radio Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

• **"BETTER CITIZENS IN KALAMAZOO,"** slogan of the Kalamazoo All-School Citizenship Education Committee, neatly sums up the aims of one of the Michigan groups that formed at the suggestion of the state's department of public instruction. Representatives of business, industry, labor unions, civic groups, churches, and high schools and colleges (two colleges in Kalamazoo), working in subcommittees, are constantly alert for newer and more effective ways of emphasizing citizenship education.

- **FATHERS ARE TAKING OVER** more and more officerships in Puyallup (Washington) P.T.A.'s, the Puyallup Council reports. Half of the presidents are men, five men serve as treasurers, and two fathers are first vice-presidents.

- **TO ENCOURAGE ALL-OUT ATTENDANCE** at meetings, the Nome (Alaska) P.T.A. purchased a plaque to award to the class in school with the best parent representation at each monthly P.T.A. meeting. At the end of the school year the room that has had the plaque oftenest will be given a book for its home room library.

- **HI, HO, COME TO THE FAIR!** Harking to this call, the Kentucky Congress for the past three years has operated a booth at the state fair. Visitors are invited to inspect P.T.A. publications and materials, ask questions about P.T.A. activities, or just rest their aching feet. According to Mrs. J. Duard Pate, Kentucky Congress exhibits chairman, state fairs present an excellent means for bringing P.T.A.'s to the attention of the general public.

- **S-D DAY TAGS** appeared on lapels of thousands of children in St. Paul and all over Minnesota. The tags, supplied to P.T.A. units by the state congress, reminded elementary school youngsters to walk safely and high school students to walk and drive with care.

- **"OUR CHILDREN ARE BEING DISMISSED** from school. Please drive carefully." In a series of spot announcements sponsored by the P.T.A., this caution was broadcast over radio station KDSJ in Deadwood, South Dakota. The messages—at lunch hour and at the end of the school day—were appreciated by parents and motorists alike.

- **A ROVING BULLETIN BOARD** displaying photographs of school and P.T.A. events travels from room to room in the Valencia Park School (Fullerton, California). Because the school has no auditorium for assemblies, the P.T.A. conceived this idea for promoting school spirit and creating a feeling of unity.

• Snapshots of school activities catch the eye of Miss Connie Alarcon, third-grade teacher at the Valencia Park School, and two of her pupils.

© *Michigan City News Dispatch*

• Evaluation of "National Parent-Teacher" Month and friendly cups of coffee were features of a gathering at the home of Mrs. Wallace Janz, president of the Michigan City (Indiana) Council of P.T.A.'s. Stepped-up promotion and a rise in subscriptions were reported by every magazine chairman present. Shown as they chat and sip are (from left): seated—Mrs. Sam Ayad, Eastport P.T.A.; Mrs. W. R. Sabin, Eastport; Mrs. Edward Yuzamas, Riley; standing—Mrs. Harry Shock, council chairman of Congress publications; Mrs. Sydney Abel, Jefferson; Mrs. Ray Deerdorf, Lakeland; and Mrs. C. R. Merriman, Central.

- **TO KEEP NEEDY CHILDREN IN SCHOOL** is the earmarking on a special fund of the W. B. Ray High School P.T.A. of Corpus Christi, Texas. Students who receive the financial help are spotted by the school's teachers and guidance department. Their identity never is known to their benefactors.

- **"WITHOUT OUR P.T.A.'s** it would be practically impossible to operate this school district" was an appraisal given in a report of the superintendent of Elementary School District 110 in Johnson County, Kansas. The area, lacking a local newspaper, relies on P.T.A. communication channels and the organization's ability to "get things done."

- **WHAT EDUCATIONAL TV** might offer was pointed out in a two-year, state-wide survey conducted by the Illinois Congress and the Chicago public schools' radio and television division. Parents, children, youth, civic leaders, educators, and others want to see current events, information about state and local areas and their industries, arts and crafts, quiz shows with an accent on learning, know-how programs on social behavior, and programs that give moral and spiritual guidance.

- **WITH DEDICATION OF ITS YEARBOOK** to the *high school P.T.A.*, the Poughkeepsie (New York) graduating class broke a long-standing precedent. Previously each edition had been dedicated to an outstanding *citizen* of the community.

- **THE YOUNGEST P.T.A.** in Indiana probably is that of the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Hammond. The brand-new school, built at a cost of $552,000, was dedicated on January 18, and by April parents and teachers had organized as a Congress unit.

FIELDGLASS *(Continued from page 3)*

Although faculty members led the classes in two colleges where academic credits were given for the course, the P.T.A. mentor was always present in classes and ready with his fund of information. Each student was supplied with the basic P.T.A. text, *Parent-Teacher Manual*, and was offered ample opportunity in class periods to examine and study Congress publications displayed in the classroom.

Still another method developed by the New Jersey Congress has produced cordial college-P.T.A. relationships, gratified college faculties, and perhaps more teachers who will want a full share in plans and programs of the parent-teacher organization. Continuing a service initiated by the national field staff in 1953, each year the congress sends its representatives to teachers' colleges to talk to classes of tomorrow's teachers. Here, too, with a clean-cut plan of action similar to the one used for workshops, and with subject matter and related presentations well mapped, the congress is assured of a direct route to its objectives.

In 1955 approximately 960 students heard the P.T.A. story in five New Jersey state teachers' colleges: Trenton, Montclair, Newark, Jersey City, and Glassboro. This year three more colleges—Rider, Panzer, and Upsala—are to benefit from college-coordinating activities of the New Jersey Congress.

A Council Pays a Thank-you Call

Proving that P.T.A.'s remember community officials even when they're not in an "asking mood," a delegation from the Kent P.T.A. Council of Maryland paid a surprise visit to a meeting of county commissioners.

The commmissioners and the P.T.A. delegates who came to thank them for efforts in behalf of the schools are (from left): Julian W. Hurtt; Mrs. Richard Tarbutton, council president and spokesman; Mrs. John Cole, Worton P.T.A.; J. Thomas Kibler; Mrs. Jean Metzger, Betterton P.T.A.; Percy M. Hepbron; Robert L. Forney, Chestertown P.T.A.; Mrs. Clyde Sparks, Fairlee P.T.A.; Mrs. Gustav Papperman, Rock Hall P.T.A.; Mrs. James Sutton, Kennedyville P.T.A.; and school superintendent Reade W. Corr.

© Kent County News

• Kent County commissioners and visiting Kent Council delegates.

CHECK LIST FOR VACATION SAFETY

If you're planning to do your vacation traveling by car this year, be sure to include SAFETY in your plans!

Your car is a star attraction and, like any star, it must be in the best possible physical condition if it is to deliver a first-rate performance. Have a skilled mechanic check the car and make necessary repairs. Be alert, too, for any trouble signs en route and have repairs made immediately. Use the following check list to get yourself off to a safe start and back home again.

1. **Tires are in good condition, not "bald" or broken.**
2. **Windshield wipers do their work efficiently and thoroughly.**
3. **The car has had recent lubrication and an oil check.**
4. **The car is loaded so that vision is unobstructed on all sides.**

Remember that when you need emergency supplies you're likely to need them in a hurry. Don't bury them under mountains of luggage. Have ready for a moment's grab:

1. **First-aid kit.**
2. **Permits, passes, identification papers, and maps.**
3. **Flashlight and keys.**
4. **A good spare tire.**

Along the way you can't ever afford to "go off duty." Vacation-time driving demands something extra from you; chances are that you are driving in unfamiliar territory where every curve and every bump has the added danger potential of newness. And you are sharing the road with a greater than average number of drivers. So keep checking on yourself and these items:

1. **Have a time schedule and itinerary, allowing for a full night's rest, adequate meals, and rest stops.**
2. **Drive only in daylight hours.**
3. **Concentrate on the road and traffic and leave scenery admiring to the passengers.**
4. **Avoid, if possible, or be prepared for, rush-hour traffic in cities and change-of-shift crowds in industrial areas.**
5. **Adapt your driving to conditions of road, weather, time of day, and traffic. Obey all traffic signs and signals.**
6. **Keep a wary eye for bicyclists and children.**

Have a good, SAFE time!

—from *Targets for Traffic Safety*
National Safety Council

FLUORIDATION:

Evidence from Experts

JUST what do we really know about fluoridation? The summary below gives the gist of two articles appearing in the May and June issues of the *National Parent-Teacher*.

In introducing the articles Henry F. Helmholz, M.D., national chairman, Committee on Health, said in part:

Nearly four years ago, in the fall of 1952, the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers recommended to its local units that they interest themselves in the fluoridation of their public water supplies. Since then much progress has been made. When the installations now approved are in use, more than thirty-nine million people will be drinking fluoridated water.

On the other hand, despite the fact that ten-year studies in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Brantford, Ontario; and Newburgh, New York, have been completed and have shown a reduction of roughly 60 per cent in dental decay without any harmful results, four million, one hundred thousand people have rejected fluoridation by referendum. Why? Either these people have been given insufficient, inaccurate information, or there has been mistranslation or misinterpretation of available evidence.

In order that our membership may know the facts on which the recommendation to our local units was made, two outstanding authorities in the field of fluoridation here tell the story of how nature in her way proved that a very minute amount of fluoride in drinking water reduces decay without doing harm to anyone, young or old, sick or well.

▶ How Effective Is Fluoridation?

Even back in the late 1800's scientists noted that in some localities children had little tooth decay. "Can this be due to a certain substance in the drinking water?" the scientists wondered.

• Not until recent times was it discovered (by analysis of water supplies and studies of children's teeth) that there was such a substance—a fluoride, which is found naturally in the water of many sections of the country.

• In 1938 detailed studies of dental decay were made in Galesburg and Quincy, Illinois. Galesburg's water had a relatively high level of fluoride—1.8 parts per million of water. Quincy's water had only 0.1 part per million. Examinations showed that *the children in Quincy, the low-fluoride community, had three times as much dental decay as did the children in Galesburg!*

• "If water containing too much fluoride is used continuously while teeth are forming, the result is mottled enamel and reduced decay. If fluoride-free water or water relatively low in fluoride content is used continuously, there is likely to be no mottling but excessive decay. Between the two extremes—water with too much fluoride and water with no fluoride—is an ideal level that can improve dental health dramatically."

• Research shows that this ideal level is about 1.0 part of fluoride to a million parts of water.

• Early in 1945 fluoridation of public water supplies (one part to a million) began in three communities: Grand Rapids, Michigan; Newburgh, New York; and Brantford, Ontario. Nine years later it was found that dental decay among six-, seven-, and eight-year-old children *had dropped roughly 60 per cent!* There were no harmful results whatever.

• Fluoridation now makes it possible for us to duplicate the workings of nature for our own well-being. "Civilized man's most common disease can be sharply curtailed by a preventive measure that is effective, inexpensive, and safe."

—H. Trendley Dean, D.D.S.

▶ Fluoridation—Key to the Problem of Tooth Decay

Every one of us takes in some fluoride every day. The foods we eat and most of our water supplies contain fluoride. In many U.S. communities people have been drinking highly fluoridated water all their lives—water fluoridated by nature.

• "Fluoride that is naturally present in water has the same chemical properties as fluoride used in fluoridation. . . . As for effects on the body, these are the same, whether fluoride is present naturally or is added."

• A ten-year study made in two neighboring towns, Newburgh and Kingston, New York, has supplied more evidence on the benefits of fluoridation. In Newburgh, fluoride (one part to a million) was added to the water. Kingston's low-fluoride water supply stayed the same. Children in both cities were examined regularly. At the end of the ten years it was found that six- to nine-year-olds in Newburgh had *58 per cent fewer* decayed, missing, or filled teeth than had children the same age in Kingston (the low-fluoride town). More startling was the discovery that boys and girls in Kingston had *lost about eight times as many first molars* from dental decay as had the Newburgh youngsters! "The first molar is rightly called the keystone of the dental arch. Loss of this tooth at an early age frequently leads to serious dental problems."

• Does fluoridated water cause some persons to have heart or kidney diseases or other ailments? In Newburgh and Kingston, children and adults were given thorough physical examinations. The rates of disease were the same in both cities.

• Like oxygen, water, chlorine, and most substances, fluoride taken in large quantities or high concentrations is poisonous. But diluted to a-part-per-million—or diluted a good deal less—fluoride is completely safe.

• "If all the dentists in the United States today were to devote all their time to treating children only, they could barely keep up with the new cavities. . . . Fortunately we are not helpless. . . . We *do have a method of reducing decay*—one that is in use now—fluoridation."

—Edward R. Schlesinger, M.D.

National Vice-president Honored

News has just been received that Kenneth E. Oberholtzer, second vice-president of the National Congress and superintendent of Denver, Colorado, public schools, has accepted a Presidential appointment to the new national Committee on Education Beyond the High School. The Committee's assignment, about which you will be reading in newspapers and magazines, is concerned with education of the entire adult population of the U.S.

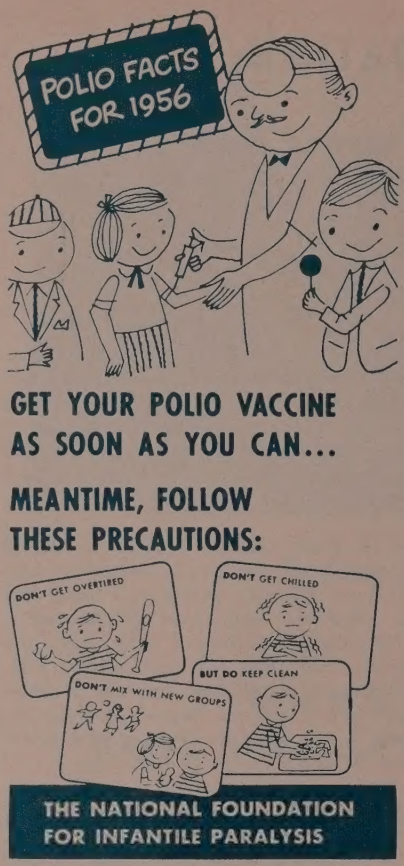
FIFTY YEARS OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

You've been shopping. You've no reason to worry about any possible impurities in packaged foods you bring home for your family, or about damage to your little schoolgirl's complexion if she should dip into the new jar of cold cream. This particular kind of freedom from worry is something most of us in the U.S. have come to accept as matter of fact.

But it was only fifty years ago, in 1906, that civic groups first saw fruits of their persistent efforts to set up protection for the consumer.* That was the year President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Food and Drugs Act and the Meat Inspection Act into protecting law, creating what is known now as the Food and Drug Administration and defining its duties. The fifty years since have been years of steady progress, bringing about closer cooperation between government and industries in the development of pure and wholesome products for consumers, the policing of domestic narcotics, and fair competition among producers.

The story of this progress and the benefits accrued for U.S. consumers has been written into a jubilee brochure that is obtainable for a nominal cost at the Fiftieth Anniversary Information Center, Suite 505, 1145 Nineteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. Such material, plus the availability of speakers for state and regional meetings, suggests possible ways of creating more interest in an important item of the National Congress' current legislation action program—adequate appropriations for maintenance of the Food and Drug Administration and for strengthening its effectiveness.

*Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, known as the father of the Food and Drugs Act, was author of "Pure Food in the Household," an article that appeared in April 1908 in the ***National Congress of Mothers Magazine*** (now ***National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine***).


POLIO FACTS FOR 1956
GET YOUR POLIO VACCINE AS SOON AS YOU CAN...
MEANTIME, FOLLOW THESE PRECAUTIONS:
DON'T GET OVERTIRED
DON'T GET CHILLED
BUT DO KEEP CLEAN
DON'T MIX WITH NEW GROUPS
THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

A GIANT STEP TO COMMUNITY HEALTH

Although state legislation and availability of state funds had opened the possibility of county health departments for Pennsylvanians, Erie County residents dallied in charting their own steps for progressive action. Hence the P.T.A. councils of the city of Erie and Erie County were asked to set the ball rolling by publicizing the purposes and services of a county health department.

The Pennsylvania State Department of Health, the Erie Council, and the Erie County Medical Association furnished fact sheets and speakers for organizations. Pros and cons were debated in P.T.A. council and local unit meetings. Informed council officers were easily available for consultation and discussion leadership.

At the general election when the proposal to set up a county health department was placed before voters of the community, two councils and 20,000 P.T.A. members had shown how support can be translated into action. The issue was carried and the Erie County Health Department was on its way to reality.

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

America *is* beautiful. Let's keep it that way! Thirty-five national opinion-forming organizations have representation on the Keep America Beautiful Advisory Council because they are concerned about the effects of human carelessness on the beauty of our country.

At a recent annual conference of the Council it was pointed out that constant volunteer effort is required if the national "litterbug" habit is to be replaced with a national good habit. Among the long-range litter-curbing activities suggested were educational programs for communities and for schools at all levels.

Participating San Diego, California, high school students, who are actively learning good citizenship traits, posted a slogan that seems to get right to the roots of the litter habit. It is **Think—Don't Throw.**